

Fun facts & recommendations

## Colosseum and Roman Forum



Tickets

### Do not miss the Roman Forum

It's just a 5 minute walk from the colosseum and definitely worth your time

The Roman forum was originally covered with grass, but the Romans drained the area to make it the center of social and political activity. The Roman Forum shows remains from several centuries all together, due to the Roman practice of building over earlier ruins.

When the Roman Empire fell, the Roman Forum became abandoned and many of the monuments and buildings were plundered and used in other areas of the city including the walls of the Vatican and many of Rome's churches.

Today modern Rome is 25 feet higher than the city was when the Forum was built because of the debris that has accumulated over the years.



### Top things to do near the Colosseum

Tickets available at [www.tickets.com](http://www.tickets.com)



#### Vatican Museums and Sistine Chapel

- Skip the line into the Pope's art collection
- See Michelangelo's masterpieces
- Monday to Saturday 9:00 - 18:00

from €26.00



#### Hop-on Hop-off Bus Rome

- Cover all highlights of the Eternal City
- Air-conditioned buses to get you around
- Buses run from 09:00 - 19:00

from €26.00



#### Roma Pass

- Explore Rome while saving time and money
- Get around town like a local
- Get free public transport, plus free or discounted access to the best sights

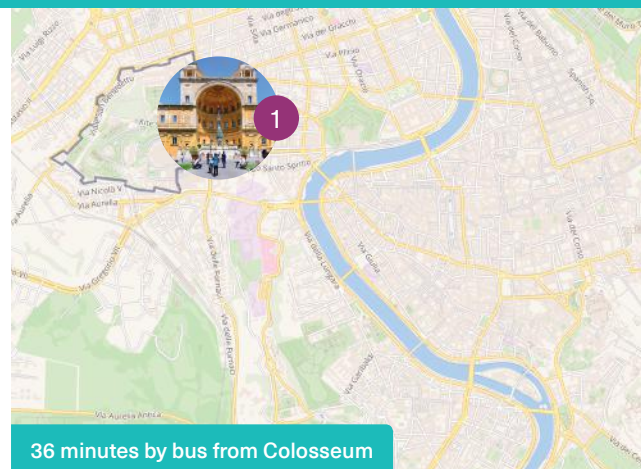
from €28.00

### Top things to do

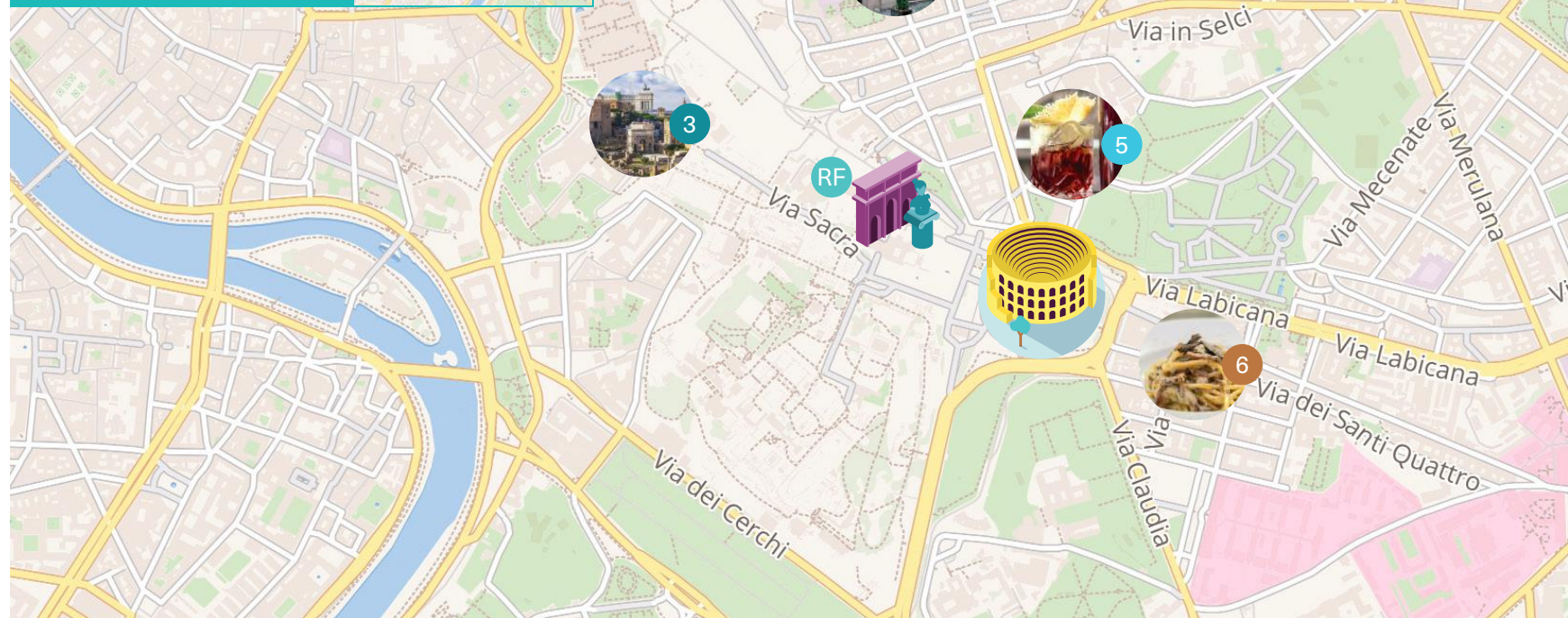
- 1 Vatican Museums**  
Viale Vaticano
- 2 Hop-on Hop-off Bus**  
Termini Station Piazza dei Cinquecento
- 3 Roma Pass Tourist Point**  
Via dei Fori Imperiali 1
- RF Roman Forum**  
Largo della Salara Vecchia

### Food & Drinks

- 4 La Taverna dei Fori**  
Viale della Madonna dei Monti 9
- 5 Oppio Caffè**  
Via delle Terme di Tito 72
- 6 Royal Art Café**  
Piazza del Colosseo 1

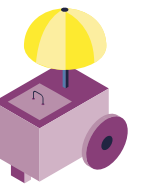


36 minutes by bus from Colosseum



### Feeling hungry?

Tickets recommends:



#### La Taverna dei Fori Imperiali

A family-run restaurant popular with tourists and locals, this is a perfect spot to down some delicious authentic Italian food on your way between Ancient Rome and your next activity.



#### Oppio Caffè

The food here is pretty good, but what really makes this place worth a visit is the view: overlooking the Colosseum, you can sip a cocktail while gazing at 2,000 years of Roman history.



#### Royal Art Café

Rooftop views of the Colosseum, delicious and reasonably priced meals, friendly service and an excellent wine list, this spot is perfectly romantic.



# The Colosseum

The Colosseum is the largest amphitheater ever built. Construction began under the Emperor Vespasian in 72AD and was completed under his successor and heir Titus in 80AD. The inaugural games lasted 100 days. Tickets were free and where people sat in the Colosseum was determined by Roman law. The best seats were reserved for the Senators. Behind them were the equestrians or ranking government officials. A bit higher up sat the ordinary Roman citizens (men) and the soldiers. Finally, at the top of the stadium sat the slaves and the women.

To keep the hot sun and the rain off of spectators, there was a retractable awning called the velarium. There were 240 wooden masts around the top of the stadium to support the awning. Roman sailors were used to put up the velarium when it was needed.

1

## Entrances to the Colosseum

There were 76 entrance gate arches, which were used by the general public, plus four special unnumbered gates which were the Grand Entrances.

2

## Velarium

There used to be a sort of platform used to hang the velarium (curtain) made of sailcloth it was used to protect spectators from sun and rain.

3

## The Arches

They were once filled with statues of divinities and gods. The statues were made of metal and marble, some had gold on the outer layer.

4

## The Arena

Its name comes from the word "sand" because this level was once filled with sand, it served to drain blood from dead gladiators and animals.

5

## The Battles

Legend has it the Colosseum was used also for Naumachiae (sea battles). They filled the Arena with water to stage sea battles.



2

1

5

4

The marble façade and some parts of the Colosseum were used for the construction of St. Peter's Basilica.

Certain classes of people were banned from attending the Colosseum. They included former gladiators, actors, and gravediggers.

The Roman Forum attracts more than 4.5 million visitors a year.

The majority of the structures in the Roman Forum were built during the reign of Julius Caesar and his successor Augustus.

Entrance to the games in the Colosseum was free.

